

REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-27, 29-30 and 32-33 without prejudice and expressly reserving the right to prosecute the subject matter of these cancelled claims in one or more subsequent applications.

This application is a divisional of Application No. 09/501,104 filed February 9, 2000 (the parent application). The parent application was subjected to a restriction requirement in an Office Action mailed May 8, 2001. Applicants hereby elect the Group XIX, i.e., claim 31 with traverse. Applicants respectfully request that claim 28, currently assigned to Group I be examined concurrently with claim 31. Both claims relate to the use of identical primers i.e. an oligonucleotide having a sequence set forth by nucleotides 175-195 of SEQ ID NO:21 and an oligonucleotide having a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to nucleotides 711-731 of SEQ ID NO:1 in polymerase chain reactions. A search of these two claims is sufficiently overlapping to warrant their concurrent examination in the interest of compact prosecution.

Entry of this amendment is earnestly requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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